CLAIMS:

1.   A method for transmitting a broadcast over the Internet by a broadcaster where the broadcast is interpreted by users located approximately within a defined distribution area of the broadcaster, comprising the steps of:

encoding a radio broadcast into digital packets of information;

encrypting said digital packets of information;

transmitting said encrypted digital packets of information over the Internet; and

providing a decryption key to a transmitter to be broadcasted within said defined distribution area of said broadcaster.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

receiving said decryption key by one or more users of computer systems located approximately within said defined distribution area of said broadcaster.

3.   The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of:

decrypting said encrypted digital packets of information using said decryption key.

4.   The method as recited in claim 3 further comprising the step of:

reproducing said decrypted digital broadcast by an audio transducer.

5.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said decryption key is transmitted via electromagnetic waves within said defined distribution area of said broadcaster.

1   6.   A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium for

2   transmitting a broadcast over the Internet by a broadcaster where the broadcast is

3   interpreted by users located approximately within a defined distribution area of the

4   broadcaster comprising the programming steps of:

5   encoding a radio broadcast into digital packets of information;

6   encrypting said digital packets of information;

7   transmitting said encrypted digital packets of information over the Internet;

8   and

9   providing a decryption key to a transmitter to be broadcasted within said

10   defined distribution area of said broadcaster.

1   7.   The computer program product as recited in claim 6 further comprises the

2   programming step of:

3   receiving said decryption key by one or more users of computer systems

4   located approximately within said defined distribution area of said broadcaster.

1   8.   The computer program product as recited in claim 7 further comprises the

2   programming step of:

3   decrypting said encrypted digital packets of information using said decryption

4   key.

1   9.   The computer program product as recited in claim 8 further comprises the

2   programming step of:

3   reproducing said decrypted digital broadcast by an audio transducer.

1   10.   The computer program product as recited in claim 6, wherein said decryption

2   key is transmitted via electromagnetic waves within said defined distribution area of

3   said broadcaster.

1   11.   A system, comprising:

2   a server broadcaster configured to transmit a broadcast over the Internet,

3   wherein said server broadcaster comprises:

4   a processor; and

5   a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is

6   operable for storing a computer program operable for transmitting a broadcast over

7   the Internet, wherein said broadcast is interpreted by users located approximately

8   within a defined distribution area of said server broadcaster, wherein the computer

9   program is operable for performing the following programming steps:

10   encoding a radio broadcast into digital packets of information;

11   encrypting said digital packets of information; and

12   transmitting said encrypted digital packets of information over

13   the Internet; and

14   providing a decryption key to a transmitter to be broadcasted

15   via radio frequencies within said defined distribution area of said server broadcaster.

1   12.   The system as recited in claim 11 further comprising:

2   one or more computer systems coupled to said server broadcaster, wherein

3   one or more of said one or more computer systems are located approximately within

4   said defined distribution area of said server broadcaster, wherein each of said one or

5   more computer systems located approximately within said defined distribution area of

6   said server broadcaster comprises:

7   a processor; and

8   a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is

9   operable for storing a computer program, wherein the computer program is operable

10   for performing the following programming step:

11   receiving said decryption key.

13.   The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the computer program in each of said one or more computer systems located approximately within said defined distribution area of said server broadcaster is further operable for performing the following programming step:

    decrypting said encrypted digital packets of information using said decryption key.

14.   The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the computer program in each of said one or more computer systems located approximately within said defined distribution area of said server broadcaster is further operable for performing the following programming step:

    reproducing said decrypted digital broadcast by an audio transducer.

15.   The system as recited in claim 11, wherein said decryption key is transmitted via electromagnetic waves within said defined distribution area of said server broadcaster.

1   16.   A method for transmitting a broadcast over the Internet within a defined

2   distribution area, comprising the steps of:

3   receiving a request to transmit said broadcast from a requester;

4   determining an approximate physical location of said requester; and

5   transmitting said broadcast over the Internet to said requester if said requester

6   is physically located approximately within said defined distribution area.

1   17.   The method as recited in claim 16, wherein said step of determining said

2   approximate physical location of said requester comprises the steps of:

3   capturing an Internet Protocol of said requester;

4   converting said captured Internet Protocol of said requester into a computer

5   name; and

6   performing a trace of said request.

1   18.   The method as recited in claim 16, wherein said broadcast is not transmitted

2   over the Internet to said requester if said requester is physically located approximately

3   outside said defined distribution area.

1   19.   A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium for

2   transmitting a broadcast over the Internet within a defined distribution area

3   comprising the programming steps of:

4   receiving a request to transmit said broadcast from a requester;

5   determining an approximate physical location of said requester; and

6   transmitting said broadcast over the Internet to said requester if said requester

7   is physically located approximately within said defined distribution area.

1   20.   The computer program product as recited in claim 19, wherein said

2   programming step of determining said approximate physical location of said requester

3   comprises the programming steps of:

4   capturing an Internet Protocol of said requester;

5   converting said captured Internet Protocol of said requester into a computer

6   name; and

7   performing a trace of said request.

1   21.   The computer program product as recited in claim 19, wherein said broadcast

2   is not transmitted over the Internet to said requester if said requester is physically

3   located approximately outside said defined distribution area.

1   22.   A system, comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is

4   operable for storing a computer program operable for transmitting a broadcast over

5   the Internet within a defined distribution area, wherein the computer program is

6   operable for performing the following programming steps:

7   receiving a request to transmit said broadcast from a requester;

8   determining an approximate physical location of said requester; and

9   transmitting said broadcast over the Internet to said requester if said

10   requester is physically located approximately within said defined distribution area.

1   23   The system as recited in claim 22, wherein said programming step of

2   determining said approximate physical location of said requester comprises the

3   programming steps of:

4   capturing an Internet Protocol of said requester;

5   converting said captured Internet Protocol of said requester into a computer

6   name; and

7   performing a trace of said request.

1   24.   The system as recited in claim 22, wherein said broadcast is not transmitted

2   over the Internet to said requester if said requester is physically located approximately

3   outside said defined distribution area.